

**FY 2022 CONGRESSIONAL HEARING FACT SHEET  
OAK RIDGE RESERVATION (OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE)**

**BACKGROUND:**

- Former EPA Administrator Wheeler signed a decision on December 31, 2020, resolving a formal dispute from DOE on the discharge of radiologically contaminated “contact” wastewater at the CERCLA Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) landfill and the proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) landfill. The decision requires the development of an in-stream preliminary remediation goal for recreational fishing in areas where fishing occurs and to apply that value at the point of compliance (effluent end-of-pipe). The decision stated that the Clean Water Act (CWA) should be followed but that site-specific exposure assumptions should be used in place of the default CWA exposure assumptions.
- EPA Region 4 continues to work with DOE and the State of Tennessee to address contamination and property transfer at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), with the aim of full redevelopment for the former Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
- EPA Region 4 is also working with DOE National Nuclear Security Administration to transfer uncontaminated parcels of property associated with Y-12 and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory sites.
- DOE continues to fund landfill planning activities.

**KEY POINTS:**

- With resolution of the EMWMF and EMDF radionuclide contact water discharge dispute, DOE has initiated a tri-party (i.e., DOE, EPA and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation [TDEC]) working group to design a fish collection and tissue study to determine the presence and level of radionuclide contamination in fish of edible size in the lower reaches of Bear Creek.
- EPA has approved approximately 1,800 acres of the NPL portion of ETTP for property transfer. A portion of this property has been transferred to date.

**TALKING POINTS:**

- Former EPA Administrator Wheeler signed a final decision on December 31, 2020, resolving the dispute regarding discharge to surface water of wastewaters generated during a CERCLA response action.
- EPA Region 4, TDEC and DOE Oak Ridge Reservation are working together to implement the decision and develop a Record of Decision for the proposed and existing CERCLA landfills.